

From: Julia Christianson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to add my voice to those who are very concerned about the terms of the Proposed Final Judgement in the Microsoft case. I agree with those who believe that the Proposed Final Judgment as written allows and encourages significant anticompetitive practices to continue, would delay the emergence of competing Windows-compatible operating systems, and is therefore not in the public interest. It should not be adopted without substantial revision to address these problems.

There are many areas of concern, but my greatest concern is that no part of the PFJ obligates Microsoft to release any information about file formats, even though undocumented Microsoft file formats form part of the Applications Barrier to Entry (see "Findings of Fact" ?20 and ? 39).

I am also concerned that under the terms of the PFJ Microsoft may still impose penalties on OEMS (large or small) which choose to provide computers loaded with a competing operating system in addition to, or in place of, Windows.

I am in charge of office automation for a mid-sized non-profit human services organization in Northern Virginia. In the face of continuing funding cuts we can simply no longer afford to run Microsoft software, and we have found open source a very reasonable alternative for our server applications. However Microsoft's refusal to make public their file formats and APIs is keeping us from making the switch to open source on the desktop. Given Microsoft's long history of questionable business practices, the only hope for us in the long term is for the Justice Department to insist upon a full set of remedies for the numerous violations of the laws of the United States identified in the Findings of Fact.

Thank you for your consideration.

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